



# Jai Rowell MP

Minister for Mental Health  
Assistant Minister for Health

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **MENTAL HEALTH “ONE-STOP SHOP” SERVICE TO BE EXPANDED ACROSS NSW**

The NSW Government is set to invest \$2 million in expanding an innovative new mental health care service delivery model in communities across NSW after the official launch of the ‘LikeMind’ pilot site in Penrith today.

Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell was joined by Member for Penrith Stuart Ayres in opening the first ‘LikeMind’ site in Penrith today, saying it would provide the Western Sydney community with ready access to a comprehensive range of specialist mental health practitioners and non-Government service providers.

“The new ‘LikeMind’ facility will provide easy, one-stop access to a whole range of services people living with mental illness, their families and carers regularly need to access,” Mr Rowell said.

“Under the auspices of UnitingCare Mental Health, a comprehensive range of mental health services will be available on site, as well as a number of other services focussing on the holistic needs of those accessing the centre – including vocational and employment services, general health and wellbeing programs, counselling, education, housing, family planning and drug and alcohol services.

“We recognise that people living with mental illness often also have complex health and social needs, which is why the NSW Government is so determined to ensure that these services can be easily accessed when needed.

“By co-locating a comprehensive range of services through the ‘LikeMind’ model and fostering a spirit of co-operation between all stakeholders, we can provide care that is at all times keenly focussed on the specific needs of the individual.”

A number of psychosocial programs provided by Uniting Care Mental Health can be accessed on site at ‘LikeMind’ Penrith such as the Personal Helpers and Mentors Service, the Family and Carer Mental Health program and Carer Respite services, as well as services addressing the physical needs of clients, such as Family Planning NSW, NSW Cancer Council and Diabetes NSW.

Mr Ayres said he recognised the significant benefits such a collaborative partnership between Government and non-Government support services would provide to the local community.

“It is fantastic to welcome this innovative service to Penrith, and I know that local people living with mental illness will benefit enormously from the ease of access to services ‘LikeMind’ will provide,” Mr Ayres said.

The opening of the Penrith ‘LikeMind’ site comes as part of a \$1.8 million commitment from the NSW Government announced as part of last year’s State Budget, with a further \$2 million in NSW Government funding announced today to develop two additional centres elsewhere in NSW.